

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AID-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 EB-11 FEA-02 SCI-06 /125 W

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O 140010Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 84

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 1270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM, MX

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY MEETING FOR MFM.

REF: A) MEXICO 1219 B) MEXICO 1236

BEGIN SUMMARY: TUESDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING, WAS INCONCLUSIVE. MEXICO PUT FORWARD THE ESSENCE OF THE AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURE BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA. PERU COUNTERED WITH A SCENARIO PROVIDING FOR 21 TEN-MINUTE SPEECHES ON THE AGENDA ITEMS, BUT THIS RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT. THE FINAL RESULT MAY BE A SINGLE LATIN SPEAKER ON EACH AGENDA ITEM TO RESPOND TO THE SECRETARY, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION. THE DELEGATES SEEM UNSURE ON HOW TO HANDLE THE ITEMS ON GENERAL US-LATIN RELATIONS (WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED?) AND ON ENERGY (WHAT DOES SECRETARY KISSINGER WANT?). CHAIRMAN QUIJANO HAS PROMISED TO CONSULT THE US WHEN A LATIN AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURE SEEMS IN SIGHT. THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE BEFORE THIS WEEKEND.

END SUMMARY.

1. VIRTUALLY EVERY DELEGATION TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING WAS REPRESENTED AT MY DINNER LAST NIGHT, AND WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN A FAIRLY CLEAR PICTURE OF THE STATE OF PLAY AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY.

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2. ARGENTINE OAS AMBASSADOR QUIJANO WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, WHICH WILL BE CLOSED AND INFORMAL. NO OBSERVERS (OAS AND THE US INCLUDED) WILL BE INVITED. (SEE REF. B)

3. THE CHIEF PRESENTATIONS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE WERE GIVEN BY MEXICO (THE KISSINGER-RABASA AGREEMENT IN ESSENCE) AND BY PERU.

4. THE FOLLOWING IS A GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL (WHICH HAS NOT RECEIVED MUCH SUPPORT):

THURSDAY: 9:30 - 11:30 AM INAUGURAL SESSION (OPEN TO PUBLIC).

11:30 - 1:30 PM AND 3:30 - 5:00 PM KISSINGER
STATEMENT ON BOGOTA DOCUMENT (PRESUMABLY
PRIVATE).

5:00 - MEETING OF LATIN MINISTERS FOR COORDINATION
OF REPLIES.

FRIDAY: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM AND 3:00 - 7:00 PM -
DISCUSSIONS OF AGENDA ITEMS, LASTING
ONE HOUR (ITEMS 2, 4, 5, 6 AND 7) OR
ONE AND A HALF HOURS (ITEMS 1 AND 3)
EACH.

SATURDAY: 9:00 - 10:30 AM - DISCUSSION OF ITEM 8.

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM - EXPOSITION BY SECRETARY
KISSINGER ON NEW ITEMS HE HAS PROPOSED.

12:30 PM - FORMATION OF DRAFTING GROUP TO PREPARE
FINAL DOCUMENT.

AFTERNOON: APPROVAL OF FINAL DOCUMENT AND
CLOSING CEREMONY (OPEN TO PUBLIC).

PERU ALSO PROPOSES THREE LATIN SPOKESMEN WITH TEN MINUTES
EACH FOR ITEMS 1 THROUGH 7; NO SPOKESMAN FOR ITEM 8.
DISCUSSION OF HALF-HOUR OR ONE HOUR WOULD FOLLOW THESE
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PRESENTATIONS.

5. MACIEL OF BRAZIL LED THE GROUP SUPPORTING THE GENERAL
KISSINGER-RABASA APPROACH AND OPPOSING THE PERUVIAN PLAN.
FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, HE WAS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN SHOWING
THE UNDESIRABILITY OF HAVING TOO MANY SPOKESMEN, SPEECHES
AND TOO MUCH STRUCTURE IN GENERAL. HE ALSO FAVORED GIVING
THE TWO US-INITIATED ITEMS FULL DISCUSSION REASONABLY

SOON AFTER DEALING WITH THE LATIN ITEMS, PROBABLY ON FRIDAY.

6. WHILE THE MEETING TOOK NO FORMAL DECISIONS, THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG DELEGATES THAT THERE WOULD BE THREE SPEECHES THURSDAY MORNING -- ECHEVERRIA, KISSINGER AND A LATIN FOREIGN MINISTER -- TO BE FOLLOWED BY PRIVATE SESSION SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESENTATION ON THE EIGHT LATIN AGENDA ITEMS.

7. MACIEL SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE FINAL AGREEMENT WILL BE FOR ONLY ONE SPOKESMAN ON EACH AGENDA ITEM, WITH DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW. HE WOULD PREFER HAVING NO SPOKESMAN, LETTING THE DISCUSSION BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION.

8. A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATIONS NOW SEEMS TO AGREE THAT THE LATINS SHOULD CAUCUS FOLLOWING THE KISSINGER PRESENTATION, PROBABLY LATE THURSDAY, TO COORDINATE THEIR RESPONSES.

9. QUIJANO ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD BE CALLING ME AS SOON AS SOME AGREED PROGRAM SEEMED TO BE EMERGING FROM THE MEETING BUT HE SAID THAT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE BEFORE THIS WEEKEND. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE WERE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN BEING

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INCLUDED IN ANY DRAFTING GROUP AT AN EARLY STAGE. WITH

SEVERAL DELEGATES WE REITERATED OUR SUPPORT FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING SHORT ON SPEECHES AND LONG ON FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATION. WE ALSO SAID WE HOPED THAT DRAFTING OF A FINAL DOCUMENT WILL NOT BE DELAYED UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT.

10. THE ENERGY ITEM AND THE ITEM ON US-LATIN RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE GIVING THE LATIN AMERICANS THEIR BIGGEST COORDINATION PROBLEMS. VENEZUELA, PERU AND PERHAPS ECUADOR WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE ENERGY DISCUSSION TO A BRIEF REPORT ON THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND PERHAPS SOME OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE SECRETARY. OTHERS LOOK UPON THE ENERGY ITEM AS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC BEFORE THE MEETING AND WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IN DEPTH WHAT PROMISES TO BE THEIR MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. MACIEL SAID THAT DELEGATES WERE SOMEWHAT CONFUSED AS TO THE SECRETARY'S INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO THIS ITEM. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SECRETARY WANTS TO HAVE A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM, FLUSHING OUT VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS AND HOPEFULLY LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR ALLEVIATING THE PROBLEM. SOME DELEGATIONS PROFESS TO THINK THAT A REPORT FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ALL THAT WE DESIRED. (THE PERUVIAN PROPOSED SCENARIO GIVES THE SECRETARY TIME FOR AN "EXPOSITION/ WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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NO DISCUSSION AFTERWARD). WE TOLD MACIEL THAT THE SECRETARY DID INDEED WISH TO REPORT ON THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, BUT PRESUMED HE ALSO WANTED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT (SEE SEPARATE CABLE).

11. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AMONG THE DELEGATES ON WHETHER CUBA WILL ARISE IN THE PLENARY MEETINGS (PRESUMABLY ITEM 8) BUT MOST FEEL THAT AS THERE IS NO LATIN COMMON POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT, IT IS PREFERABLE TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO OFF THE FLOOR CONVERSATIONS. (PERU REPORTEDLY PROPOSED AT THE MEETING THAT THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR BE INCLUDED IN SOCIAL EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MFN, BUT THIS IDEA MET A SUDDEN DEATH).

12. LOBBYING IS VIGOROUS AMONG THE DELEGATES FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS JOB OF MAKING "THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH" AT THE OPENING CEREMONY. COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND ARGENTINA ALL HAVE THEIR HATS IN THE RING, WITH THE SMART MONEY APPARENTLY ON THE COLOMBIAN.

13. PANAMANIAN OAS AMBASSADOR PITT, ORDINARILY A STORMY PETREL, WAS ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT AND REQUESTED COPIES OF THE KISSINGER PANAMA SPEECH AND THE JOINT DECLARATION OF FEBRUARY 7 FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL THE DELEGATES TODAY.

14. COMMENT: THE ODDS SEEM STRONGLY TO FAVOR ACCEPTANCE

OF AN MFM FORMAT WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO US,
THOUGH IT IS LIKELY THAT A LITTLE BLOOD MUST FLOW BEFORE
THIS HAPPENS. ONE OR TWO DELEGATIONS SEEMED TO BE CYNICAL
ABOUT THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME BUT THE PREDOMINANT SENTIMENT
IS CLEARLY ONE OF GUARDED OPTIMISM -- NOT THAT SPECIFIC
PROBLEMS WILL BE LIQUIDATED AT THE MEETING BUT THAT THE
GROUNDWORK WILL BE LAID FOR WORKING THEM OUT IN A FRIENDLY
MANNER IN THE FUTURE.

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